

## Libraries Provide — Countywide!

### Feeling the luck of the Irish this month?

By Heather Estrada

*For Go! Magazine*

March is just around the corner, a month that conjures images of shamrocks, a pot of gold, green beer and good luck. It begs the question — are the Irish really the lucky ones? I would submit to you, that if you live in Umatilla County, you are one of the lucky ones.

You are lucky if you love to read, and don't want to buy every book you read this week, this month or this year.

You are lucky if you want to watch a movie but like to watch it from your own living room and don't want to pay for it.

You are lucky if you want to let your child try out an American Girl Doll (which start at \$115 to buy) or if you want to borrow a stand-up paddle board instead of buying and storing one at home.

You are lucky if you are looking for a craft time for your child so that you don't have to dream one up yourself. You are lucky if you love to play games, but no one in your family will ever sit down and play with you. You are lucky if you like to build Legos, do science kits or love comic books. You are lucky if you need to do research and don't have the equipment or knowledge to get started. You are lucky if you need a safe space to send your kids on a long summer day, or a cold winter one.

Why are you lucky? Not just in March, but all year long? Because

month, the staff at all 12 public libraries (and Blue Mountain Community College library) offer friendly help and services, have regular events for people of all ages, as well as outstanding activities that reflect special events for each season.

For example, an outstanding service we are lucky to have all across this county is that all of our libraries are part of the SAGE library consortium. Consortium means that the library catalog at whichever library you are closest to has books from across our county and books from 77 libraries in our region of the country. You can request any book you want to read, and no matter which library owns that book, you can check it out and have it delivered through a courier system to your local library.

In addition to the regular library services and happenings (and there are SO many more I haven't mentioned), March will bring many special events.

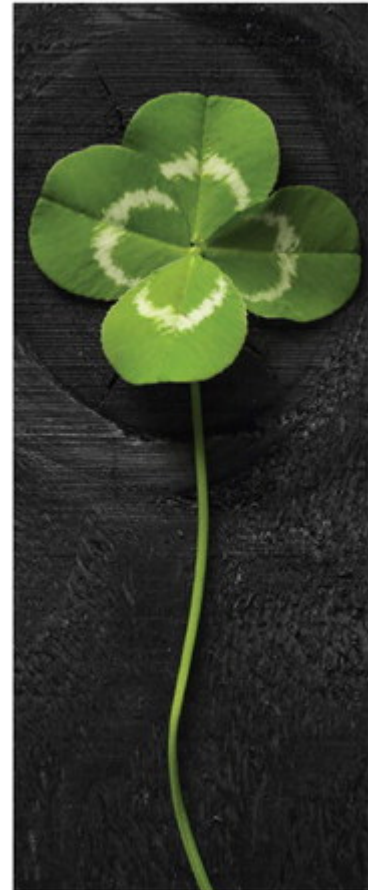
The Stanfield library is starting a Walking Group in partnership with the OHSU School of Nursing. Adams has a Pot of Gold craft day (March 16), Milton-Freewater has a St. Patrick craft night (March 14), and Weston's craft day is March 29.

The Helix library will be offering a Snap Circuit Class (think science kits), and the Athena library will be starting a Read Across America challenge with a free book for every child who participates.

The Umatilla library will host a Spring Planting Day (March 24), and the Pendleton library will begin taking its new mobile library (bookmobile) around the area to

Living in Umatilla County has many blessings (reasons to feel lucky), not the least of which is the bounty of services, goods, and helpful staff at each of the 12 public libraries. If you have a need for any sort of resource or need help of some kind, chances are your library can help you out! The ease at which a wealth of materials are accessible, and the great events the library staff plan for you is over the top! Truly a pot of gold at the end of your rainbow. Count yourself lucky to live here and go visit a library or two this month. Find more information on your library at [www.ucslid.org](http://www.ucslid.org).

— Heather Estrada is the district director of the Umatilla County Special Library District. Reach her at [director@ucslid.org](mailto:director@ucslid.org).



you have access to a public library, offer services and books to those **123rf**  
of course! who can't get into the library  
proper. They will start with a  
In your Umatilla Counties libraries, kickoff visit to Pendleton Early  
you can do these things and so Learning Center.  
much more! Every week, every

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